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SOURCE B.E.I.P.I.REDISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION IN RUMANIA

During the summer of 1952, foreign correspondence with Rumania virtually ceased, Rumanian newspapers were no longer received, and insured parcels sent from outside the iron curtain were returned to the sender. The main reason for this was the large-scale evacuation ordered from all key cities and towns in Rumania.

A decree issued in January 1952 for a report of another more recent decree specifically prohibited the following categories of persons from residing in key cities: former industrialists, former owners of expropriated property, merchants whose funds were confiscated, magistrates and other public officials of the past regime, former officers, and retired personnel. Those over 70 at the time of the decree were exempt from the last group.

Deportees were not allowed to select the place of their new residence. Authorities were especially careful not to assign them to the place of their birth, or even to the same region, in order that deportees might not exert influence on local inhabitants. Consequently, the practical difficulty of finding dwellings for the displaced persons delayed the whole plan. Actual deportations did not commence until June 1952, but since then they have continued to take place according to definite criteria of population distribution.

The carrying out of the deportation plan generally takes the following pattern: each person is allowed to take 25 kilograms of luggage, and is given a 24-hour notice of departure. However, most people wait at least several weeks, with their baggage ready, before their actual deportation comes about. While waiting, the expected deportees are not allowed to leave their homes except for very short periods, for otherwise they become subject to imprisonment for insubordination.

The displaced persons are informed of their destination only on their arrival at the station, where an accompanying militia gives them the train ticket and travel order. On arrival at their destination, the deportees must

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report to the militia headquarters to be assigned to a dwelling place. Inasmuch as correspondence between private individuals in Rumania is abolished [not elsewhere confirmed], the deportees are left with no medium of communication with their relatives and friends. They are left completely isolated in an environment of strangers.

The foregoing deportation plan applies only to those not ranked as class enemies. For the majority of refugees, the evacuation means a sentence to work on the Danube-Black-Sea Canal. If their age or health does not allow them to render service in work camps, they are "temporarily" interned in concentration camps. The poor food and lack of medicines render these concentration camps veritable extermination camps.

It must be admitted that although the evacuation is conducted with severity, all unnecessary violence or agitation is avoided. This precaution follows the Communist doctrine that the true Communist regime does not need to resort to executions.

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